Geriatricians, Geriatric Psychiatrists, and Geriatric Dentists are Eligible for NHSC Loan Forgiveness under ARRA

Geriatricians, Geriatric Psychiatrists, and Geriatric Dentists are now eligible for loan repayment through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program. The program is funded by $200 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The NHSC Loan Repayment Program provides $50,000 (or the outstanding balance of qualifying student loans if it is less than $50,000), tax free, to primary care medical, dental and mental health clinicians in exchange for two years of service at an approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area. Upon completion of the service commitment, clinicians may be eligible to apply for additional support for extended service.

All applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals. Primary Care Physicians must have certification in a primary care specialty from a specialty board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association or completed a residency program in a primary care specialty, approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association. They must also have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered health professional license, which is from the State in which the applicant intends to practice to fulfill his/her NHSC LRP service obligation. Specifically, Geriatricians must serve in an approved full-time geriatrics practice and provide specific documentation of training and experience. The complete list of requirements for Geriatricians, Geriatric Psychiatrists, and Geriatric Dentists begins on page 15 of the Applicant Information Bulletin.

Applications are now being accepted for the Loan Repayment Awards. Applications will be accepted continuously until funds are expended or September 30, 2010, whichever comes first. For more information and to apply, please visit http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/.